

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 6, 2005 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment made to better define the present invention.

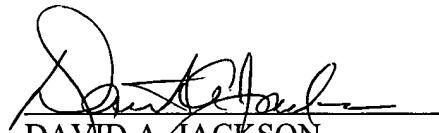
In that Office Action, claim 1 was initially rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and the claim has now been amended to correct and to clarify the element that is referred to consistently in the specification. The term "element" has been replaced with "bank note storing element" and, for consistency, the word "note" has been clarified to "bank note".

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergeron *et al*, U.S. Patent 5,988,345 in view of Watabe, U.S. Patent 5,195,739. As such, claim 1 has now been amended to include the prior limitations of claim 5, such that, as now written, the preamble of claim 1 recites a device for validating and storing bank notes with features present in the prior art and with the characterizing part i.e. *wherein the means for controlling the movement of the bank notes along the channel defined between the pair of hinged bodies shaping the bank note validation head comprise a wheel axially provided with a series of recesses in relation to which it has an optical sensor, being housed in the fixed body shaping the head, whose wheel is in direct contact with the pertinent bank note to be validated, to know its speed of movement and that it is related to the rotation speed of the motor operating the bank note pulling wheels* the inventive feature is described in detail. The means for controlling the movement of bank notes therein recited is neither known nor rendered obvious by the cited references.

In particular, the rollers 18, 20 and 24 of Bergeron *et al* do not provide any control over bank note motion. Watabe, on the other hand, is an apparatus for preventing the bills or the like from being pulled out where the movement of the bill inside the bill passage is performed through the belts 10 and 15. Control over the motion of the bill simply cannot be achieved with these motion means.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, as now amended, is patentable over the references of record along with the dependent claims 2-4 and an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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